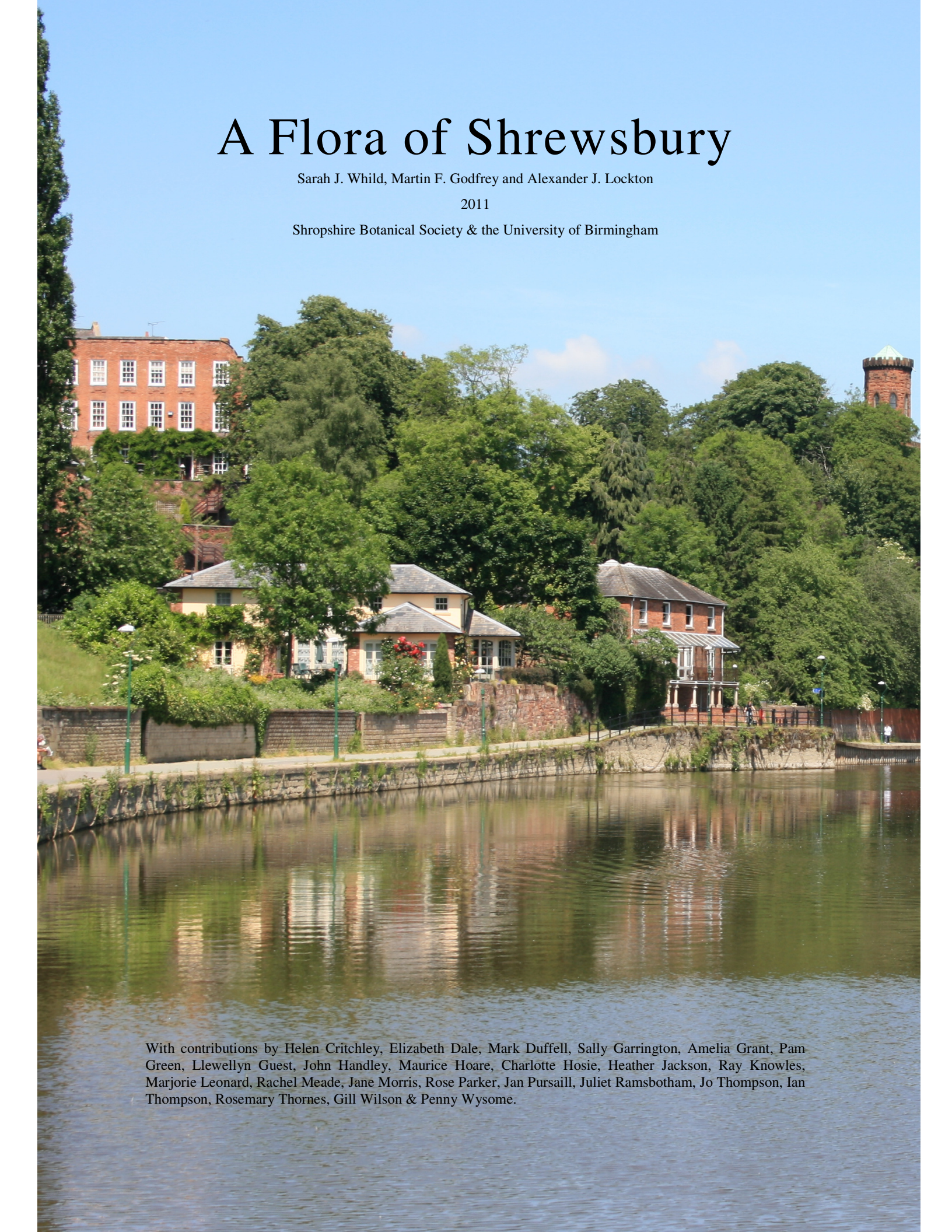


A Flora of Shrewsbury

Sarah J. Whild, Martin F. Godfrey and Alexander J. Lockton

2011

Shropshire Botanical Society & the University of Birmingham



With contributions by Helen Critchley, Elizabeth Dale, Mark Duffell, Sally Garrington, Amelia Grant, Pam Green, Llewellyn Guest, John Handley, Maurice Hoare, Charlotte Hosie, Heather Jackson, Ray Knowles, Marjorie Leonard, Rachel Meade, Jane Morris, Rose Parker, Jan Pursaill, Juliet Ramsbotham, Jo Thompson, Ian Thompson, Rosemary Thornes, Gill Wilson & Penny Wysome.

A Flora of Shrewsbury

An annotated checklist of the vascular plants, bryophytes and charophytes of the town of Shrewsbury, based on fieldwork conducted by the University of Birmingham School of Biosciences, with the Shropshire Botanical Society, in 2010.

By Sarah Whild, Martin Godfrey & Alex Lockton

With contributions by Helen Critchley, Elizabeth Dale, Mark Duffell, Sally Garrington, Amelia Grant, Pam Green, Llewellyn Guest, John Handley, Maurice Hoare, Charlotte Hosie, Heather Jackson, Ray Knowles, Marjorie Leonard, Rachel Meade, Jane Morris, Rose Parker, Jan Pursaill, Juliet Ramsbotham, Jo Thompson, Ian Thompson, Rosemary Thornes, Gill Wilson & Penny Wysome.

Shropshire Botanical Society & the University of Birmingham

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2011

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Cover photograph: River Severn and Laura's Tower.

In memory of Melody Ryle (1917-2007) who lived in Shrewsbury and enjoyed the local flora for sixty years.

Introduction

Shrewsbury is the most botanically diverse part of Shropshire, with 665 species of vascular plants recorded in its central tetrad (2 km x 2 km square). This is partly due to a long history of intensive recording and partly due to the diversity of the area, with semi-natural places occurring adjacent to the artificial habitats and disturbance associated with human activity. This makes it a good place to explore and study plant identification, which was our main purpose with this Flora. As in Frank Perring's 1975 *Flora of Attingham Park*, we ran a series of identification days around the town and encouraged the participants to explore other areas independently. Records were collected for the sake of thoroughness and, while they can be used for purposes such as studying distribution and change, that is not directly relevant to this study. Shrewsbury is not a nature reserve and management of even its wild areas is largely uninfluenced by conservation. Most wildlife that exists here does so entirely of its own accord.

The area covered is the land within the river loop that makes up the historical town of Shrewsbury, plus areas on the opposite side of the river, in the squares SJ4812 and SJ4912. Where Burr's Field strays into two adjacent km squares, these bits are included, too. The survey was intended to record wild species, not planted ones, but the dividing line is unclear and we have erred on the side of including more rather than less. In particular, we have recorded some planted trees when they are in wilder places, and anything that looks like it might be spreading.

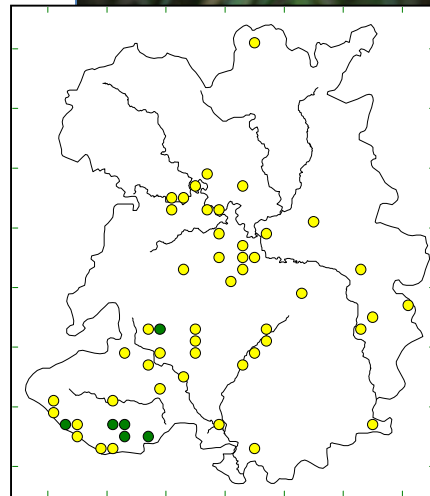
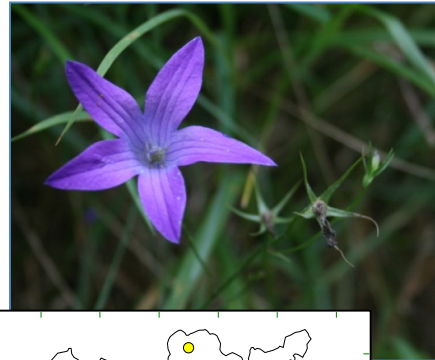
The survey took place throughout 2010 but the species accounts include all records for Shrewsbury from the Shropshire Flora Database. Hopefully it is made clear as to which species were found during this survey and which appear to have become extinct. New records are marked with an asterisk and those which are considered to be extinct are marked thus †.

The species accounts are arranged in taxonomic order but there is an index so a particular species can be looked up. Common names are also given in the species accounts and both common and scientific names are given in the review of sites. Only scientific names are given in the review of historical records. Scientific names for vascular plants are taken from Stace (2010) and bryophyte names are taken from the current British Bryological Society checklist, available on their web site at www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk.

Changes in the Flora

There are 106 species that have not been re-recorded in this survey and have not been recorded in the preceding decade so it is reasonable to consider these to be extinct from the Shrewsbury survey area. All extinctions are marked † and will not have been recorded since 2001 or will be from a site that is known to have been destroyed. Of these extinctions, 8 are bryophytes and the remainder are vascular plants.

There are 77 new species that have not been recorded for Shrewsbury before this survey and they are marked with an asterisk (*). This is not an ecological Site Flora, so analysis of the changes would reveal little that is not already well known about urbanisation, climate change and the proliferation of some non-native species. It could, however, shed light on the ecology of certain species, such as *Campanula patula* (Spreading Bellflower), which seems to have been associated with roadsides and river banks in the past, and may have declined because of changes in modes of transport.



Campanula patula in Shropshire. Yellow dots are for old records (pre-1985)

Recording in Shrewsbury

The earliest known records for Shrewsbury are by J.J. Dillenius, professor of botany at Oxford, in 1726, when he recorded *Fumaria purpurea* (Purple Ramping-fumitory) and *Limosella aquatica* (Mudwort) in or near the town. This was before the weir was constructed, so the river would have been shallower and muddier. In 1793, when the freelance Quaker scientist Arthur Aikin arrived in Shrewsbury, he found *Oxalis corniculata* (Procumbent Yellow-sorrel) by the Welsh Bridge. He later recorded a fumitory (probably *F. purpurea* again) in a hedge and *Cochlearia danica* (Danish Scurvygrass) on the castle walls. The latter died out long ago but has recently arrived in the town again along the edges of salt-treated roads. In the 1790s and 1800s Edward Williams made a few records around the town, including the first for *Smyrnium olusatrum* at the castle and three species of *Rorippa* (Yellow-cress) on the riverbank. Williams was a vicar and an antiquarian, and he was compiling the first Flora of the county but, although he lived at nearby Coton Hill, he did not find much in Shrewsbury to write about.

John Evans, senior physician at the Salop Infirmary, made some records that were published in Turner & Dillwyn's *Botanist's Guide* in 1805. These included an unfortunate mistake in *Geranium rotundifolium* (Round-leaved Crane's-bill), which Leighton and others have puzzled over and written about. This southerly plant has recently appeared of its own accord near Shrewsbury, but it was also present in the vicinity of Leighton's garden for over a century, since he brought it in to see what it looked like. Joseph Babington, a physician from Ludlow, observed (in Plymley, 1803) that *Echium vulgare* (Viper's Bugloss) grew in sandy places near Shrewsbury. A lot of the records for a town are, of course, just incidental observations like these. Systematic surveys are very unusual. The closest thing to it is a Flora such as William Leighton's Flora of 1841. Leighton recorded in a fairly structured way, particularly around Shrewsbury, where he lived. He lists 139 species in and around the town, mostly records he made himself between 1830 and 1841. He also sent many specimens off to botanical exchange clubs, and there is still a wealth of valuable data to be extracted from herbaria in museums. Many of Leighton's specimens are now lodged at Shrewsbury Museum (SHY), which has been partially digitized by the Shropshire Botanical Society.



Fumaria purpurea at the Slang

Among Leighton's contributions was a paper on a possible new species of violet that he found in Shrewsbury (unfortunately not accepted by the experts), and three editions of a guide to the town of Shrewsbury, where he mentions *Diploxys tenuifolia* (Perennial Wall-rocket) on the walls of the Abbey.

William Phillips was an energetic man with a diversity of interests who lived and worked in Shrewsbury and published many records, especially in his 'List of flowering plants and ferns within a radius of five miles round Shrewsbury' (Phillips 1878). Although this is tantalisingly close to being a valuable Site Flora and one of the earliest ever, it is unfortunately of little use. There are few precise localities mentioned, and a 5 mile radius encompasses a huge area. Worse still, he copied lots of Leighton's records without attribution, so it is impossible to tell what he really saw and what he merely repeated. We have had to disregard many of his records, although of course he remains one of the town's most important recorders, particularly of the commoner species, and his are often the first and sometimes the only records. On the whole, his identifications are not questioned, only his recording methods.

At about the same time as Phillips was active, Thomas Butler retired to Shrewsbury and undertook the curation of the museum herbarium, where he put numerous specimens he had collected in and around Shrewsbury. Although he gave detailed locations of where he found the plants, he rarely put dates on the sheets, so we have allocated them to the year he died (1886). In fact most are from the period 1868-1886.

In the 1880s William Beckwith published a few papers on the Flora of Shropshire and listed some plants for the town. He particularly recorded aquatics in the river, which many people ignore. Also in the 1880s Richard Benson collected specimens from Shrewsbury for his extensive herbarium, but he was only looking for oddities

that he could not get closer to home (Pulverbatch), so some of them are pretty obviously from gardens. He eventually sold his collection to Shrewsbury School, who kindly made it available to us for photographing and digitization. When it was loaded onto the web site Herbaria at Home, it had the distinction of being the first complete virtual herbarium in the world.

In the first decade of the 20th century quite a few people recorded around town in preparation for William Hamilton's planned Flora, which was never published, but is still available for viewing in manuscript form in the Shropshire Archive. It was at this time that the first bryophyte records were made, by Hamilton himself and J.B. Duncan. The 1920s and 30s were a quiet period for botany, with just a few records by the retired millionaire businessman James Cosmo Melvill and visits from famous botanists like George Claridge Druce. The only records from the 1940s were by Norah Mackenzie and Miss S.M. Prideaux. It was not until the 1950s that another serious attempt was made to do botanical recording, by Edward Rutter, a retired superintendent from the L.N.E.R. He curated the museum herbarium and produced a checklist of plants of Shropshire, but he was more interested in birds and most of his efforts went into founding the Shropshire Ornithological Society.

In the 1970s and 1980 recording was undertaken for Sinker's Flora of Shropshire (1985), with a lot of work in Shrewsbury undertaken by Helen Matthews. Since then there have been many site surveys and incidental records. These are all included in the main list of records and, if they are unusual, the recorders' names are given.

List of recorders

A full list of recorders and referees, past and present, who have contributed records used in this report.

Mr A. Aikin	Mrs R.A. Dawes	Dr B.E. Jonsell	Mrs J. Ramsbotham
Mr W.B. Allen	Prof J.J. Dillenius	Miss M.J. Lee	Mr J. Randall
Mr G.H. Ash	Mr B.O. Draper	Rev W.A. Leighton	Dr T.C.G. Rich
Mr S.J. Ayliffe	Dr G.C. Druce	Mrs M. Leonard	Dr A.J. Richards
Rev J. Babington	Mr A.A. Dudman	Prof J. Lindley	Ms S. Roach
Mr J. Ball	Mr J.B. Duncan	Rev E.F. Linton	Rev W.M. Rogers
Mr J.S. Baly	Mr D.P. Earl	Mr L.C. Lloyd	Mr R. Rowe
Mr J. Baynes	Mr E.S. Edees	Mr A.J. Lockton	Mr E.M. Rutter
Mr W. Beacall	Mrs D.M. Evans	Miss N.M. Mackenzie	Mr P.D. Sell
Mr W.E. Beckwith	Dr J. Evans	Mr J. Martin	Rev R.M. Serjeantson
Rev Beddows	Dr J. Fraser	Dr J.L. Mason	Mr C.A. Sinker
Mr K.K. Bell	Miss K.M. Gardner	Mrs H. Matthews	Mr R.M. Stokes
Rev T.B. Bell	Ms J. Glover	Mr R. Maycock	Mr R.J. Swindells
Mr A. Bennett	Sqn Ldr M.F. Godfrey	Ms R. Meade	Sir G. Taylor
Mr R.D. Benson	Mrs P.G. Green	Mr R.D. Meikle	Rev J.H. Thompson
Miss M.H. Bigwood	Dr L.B. Guest	Dr J.C. Melvill	Mrs R. Thorne
Mr T.P. Blunt	Mr J. Hagger	Mr R. Mileto	Prof I.C. Trueman
Mr T. Bodenham	Mr A. Hagger	Dr J. Morris	Mr S.R. Turner
Mr C.R. Boon	Miss S. Haines	Prof T.F.L. Nees	Mrs M. Wainwright
Mr W. Borrer	Miss E.M. Hamilton	von Esenbeck	Mr A. Wake
Mrs Burnett	Mr W.P. Hamilton	Mr P.H. Oswald	Dr S.M. Walters
Prof Sir J.H. Burnett	Dr R.M. Harley	Rev W.H. Painter	Dr S.J. Whild
Canon T. Butler	Rev W.M. Hind	Mrs P. Parker	Mr W. Whitwell
Mr A.O. Chater	Mr M.G. Hoare	Dr F.H. Perring	Rev E. Williams
Mr E.J. Clement	Dr C. Hosie	Rev W. Phillips	Ms G. Wilson
Mrs M.J. Connell	Mrs J. Ing	Mr G. Potts	Dr T.W. Wilson
Ms H. Critchley	Mr R. Iremonger	Mr J.A. Power	Mr D.H. Wrench
Mr H. Cutler	Mr J.B. Johnson	Dr C.D. Preston	Dr P.S. Wyse-Jackson
Mrs E. Dale	Capt G.E. Johnson	Miss S.M. Prideaux	Mrs P.J. Wysome
Mr J.E. Dandy	Dr H.L. Jones	Mr H.W. Pugsley	

Sites

Beck's Field is named after the Beck family, who lived at Kingsland House in 1800 and then Ridgemount in 1841 (Straughan, 1994). They were bankers and wine merchants. Shrewsbury School bought most of the land now known as Beck's Fields in 1890 and completed the purchase in 1924. The area stretches from the Porthill suspension bridge to the Kingsland Toll Bridge, and contains the two boathouses. It is managed by Shropshire Council and is a popular spot for walking. The grassland is grazed by twelve cattle, which are taken off before the Flower Show, and is only moderately species-rich, with Pignut *Conopodium majus* and Bulbous Buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*. The slump by the riverbank is the only place in the town with Meadow Saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*.



The English Bridge

The Burr Family gave their name to the area straddling the Rad Brook, below the large white house, Kingsland Bank. This house was known as the Cann Office until 1849 from which a path led to a ferry across the River. Around 1849, the family bought the house and linen weaving factory in the fields to develop their lead factory, as Thomas Burr was a plumber. He lived there with two brothers and two sisters, all unmarried. The lead factory employed 41 people at its height in 1851 and was closed in 1891. Burr's Field is bisected by the Rad Brook, which flows into the Severn at this point. The perimeter is made up of mature trees of native and ornamental species, with an understorey of shrubs, ruderal herbs and grasses. It is crossed by several public footpaths and the two main flatter areas either side of the brook are mown as amenity grassland and there is no grazing. Only in the south-western corner where the land rises towards Canonbury are there uncut grass areas with taller flowers in the sward.

The Quarry is the only park in our survey area. It is mostly mown grass with avenues of limes along the riverbank. The grassland has numerous planted crocuses and daffodils, but is otherwise unremarkable. The banks of the river are the most interesting feature, with a variety of willows and swamps of Lesser Pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*. For six weeks of the year the Quarry is taken over by the Horticultural Society for the Shrewsbury Flower Show, and it is sometimes used for funfairs and concerts. There is also an unusual cut-leaved variety of hornbeam near the swimming pool.

In the middle of the Quarry is the Dingle, which was laid out as an ornamental garden by Percy Thrower, the town Parks Superintendent, in the post-war years. The pool there was full of Smooth Stonewort *Nitella flexilis* agg. – the only site for charophytes in Shrewsbury.

Blackfriars Meadow is private land rising steeply from the towpath just below the English Bridge and crossed by the line of the former town wall. It faces east and for many years was terraced and divided into allotments. In 1959 it suffered a landslip, which resulted in extensive remedial work including extensive draining, re-grading and seeding with grasses. The present owners treat it as a meadow and cut it once a year. It contains an

interesting and rare (for Shrewsbury) assemblage of grasses with Cowslip *Primula veris* and Lady's Smock *Cardamine pratensis*.

The loop of the Severn encloses a number of churches, some with graveyards or surrounds. The Roman Catholic cathedral on Town Walls has a walled area invaded by several plants, Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis* and Stonecrops *Sedum* sp. primarily. St Chad's churchyard provides a hospitable area for plants where the grass growing between the gravestones is enriched with several species of Speedwell *Veronica* sp., Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea* and small geraniums *Geranium* sp. The area surrounding the ruin of old St Chad's is predominantly mown grass, but there is an inaccessible pit with three species of spurge *Euphorbia* sp. St Mary's and St Julian's churches are no longer used for regular worship. Their grounds are trimmed and tidied too well to encourage a wide flora, but the wall of St Julian's has several colonies of the Least Sorrel *Oxalis exilis* and in the spring the trampled ground produces large crops of Spring Whitlow-grass *Erophila verna*.

The Slang¹ is a footpath leading from Town Walls to the riverside near Kingsland Bridge. It has high walls on both sides, the eastern one dividing it from former allotments. On this side grow several species of ferns and Snapdragon *Antirrhinum majus*. On the strip of waste ground, which forms part of the retaining wall for the bridge road (since 1881), grow Bladder Campion *Silene vulgaris*, three species of fumitory *Fumaria* sp. and several speedwells *Veronica* sp.

St Mary's Water Lane is an ancient entrance to the town centre, leading up from Traitor's Gate on the river bank. The old sandstone and lime walls of Blackfriars' Friary and Council House Court grounds provide a rich habitat for a variety of plants, including Ivy-leaved Toadflax *Cymbalaria muralis* and Wallflower *Erysimum cheiri*. At the bottom of the lane the riverbank has Alexanders *Smyrniolum olusatrum* and Purple Ramping-fumitory *Fumaria purpurea*.

Under the first arch of the English Bridge is a silt bank which develops on the inside of the meander. It is regularly inundated in the winter and is occasionally cleared by the Environment Agency, so the bare mud creates a good habitat for ruderal species. By mid-summer it is a mass of Indian Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, but in the spring and autumn it is rich in knotweeds and rushes. This is the only place where Sharp-stippled Willow *Salix x mollissima* grows in the town. On the walls of the bridge there are tufa formations where water percolates through the stonework. The tufa-forming moss is Red Beard-moss *Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum*.



Blackfriars Meadow.

¹ Slang is a Shropshire term for a narrow field by a river, but in Shrewsbury it refers to a lane leading down to the river. The Slang at Murivance Bank was once a route to Burr's Ferry.

The Gay Meadow is the site of Shrewsbury Town's former football stadium and is currently under development. There are several ruderal species including Common Cudweed *Filago vulgaris*.

The walls in Shrewsbury form a significant habitat for many species. Town Walls is the only site for Intermediate Polypody *Polypodium interjectum* and Wall Lettuce *Mycelis muralis* but is otherwise rather tidy. The castle is mostly clear of wild plants, but has Pellitory-of-the-wall *Parietaria judaica*. Car parks walls are diverse and many of the old town walls harbour substantial populations of Ivy-leaved Toadflax *Cymbalaria muralis* and Pellitory-of-the-wall. Marine Terrace wall is notable for its Fern-grass *Catapodium rigidum*.

Acknowledgements

The Shrewsbury Flora Project is enormously grateful to the Blackfriars residents who allowed us access to their meadow.

During the survey we often stopped for lunch at Shrewsbury hostelrys and would like to thank both The Armoury and The Cornhouse and also the Gateway coffee shop staff for putting up with so many muddy-booted botanists and their inevitable bags of specimens.

We are grateful to the estate of Melody Ryle for providing funding towards this publication.

Species Accounts

Charophytes (stoneworts)

Nitella flexuosa* agg., **Smooth Stonewort. In a pond in The Dingle (D.H. Wrench, 2010).

Bryophytes (mosses and liverworts)

Pellia endiviifolia*, **Endive Pellia. On bare mud by the Severn at the English Bridge.

Lunularia cruciata, **Crescent-cup Liverwort**.

Occasional on bare mud and walls around the river. First recorded by W.P. Hamilton in 1904 on the wall below Marine Terrace.

Conocephalum conicum*, **Great Scented Liverwort. By the Severn on stonework at the English Bridge.



Conocephalum conicum

Marchantia polymorpha, **Common Liverwort**. On stonework by the Severn at the English Bridge and occasionally in pavement cracks. Previously recorded by Hamilton 'with male flowers, on a patch of earth in a corner of a back yard in the centre of the town.'

Atrichum undulatum*, **Common Smoothcap. Occasional in damp grassland in deep shade, St Alkmund's.

Ceratodon purpureus, **Redshank**. Frequent in the Quarry, along the river and elsewhere. Previously recorded 'under the Kingsland Bridge, Kingsland end' by Hamilton in 1905.

†*Dichodontium pellucidum*, **Transparent Fork-moss**. Hamilton, 1904: 'on a large stone coated with mud, by the Severn, under the Mount. c.170 ft., alt.' This is outside the area of the current survey.

Dicranella staphylinia*, **Field Forklet-moss. On bare mud by the Severn at the English Bridge.

Fissidens crassipes*, **Fatfoot Pocket-moss. On bridge stonework by the Severn at the English Bridge.

†*F. fontanus*, **Fountain Pocket-moss**. Recorded in 1904 at 'Ellis's landing stage near the Quarry' (Duncan) and at 'Pengwerne and the Schools landing stages, Kingsland' (Hamilton).

Trichostomum crispulum*, **Curly Crisp-moss. On stonework by the Severn at the English Bridge.

Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum, **Red Beard-moss**. On stonework by the Severn at the English Bridge. Previously recorded on walls in St Mary's Water Lane by Hamilton in 1887.

Barbula convoluta*, **Lesser Bird's-claw Beard-moss. On bare ground as a ruderal.

B. unguiculata*, **Bird's-claw Beard-moss. On bare ground and damp bricks as a ruderal.

Didymodon insulanus*, **Cylindric Beard-moss. In the Quarry and by English Bridge.

D. luridus*, **Dusky Beard-moss. By the Severn at the English Bridge.

D. tophaceus*, **Olive Beard-moss. By the Severn at the English Bridge.

D. fallax*, **Fallacious Beard-moss. In the Quarry and by English Bridge.

Tortula muralis, **Wall Screw-moss**. Occasional on walls.



Tortula muralis

T. truncata*, **Common Pottia. On bare mud by the Severn at the English Bridge.

Syntrichia ruralis*, **Great Hairy Screw-moss. Occasional on walls.

S. montana*, **Intermediate Screw-moss. On stonework by the Severn at the English Bridge.

S. laevipila*, **Small Hairy Screw-moss. On willows by the Severn in the Quarry.

S. papillosa*, **Marble Screw-moss. On willows by the Severn near English Bridge and in the Quarry.



Syntrichia papillosa

S. latifolia*, **Water Screw-moss. On willows by the Severn in the Quarry.

Schistidium crassipilum*, **Thickpoint Grimmia. Occasional on stonework.

Grimmia pulvinata*, **Grey-cushioned Grimmia. Frequent on walls.

†*Funaria hygrometrica*, **Common Cord-moss**. In the Quarry in 1897 (Hamilton).

†*Leptobryum pyriforme*, **Golden Thread-moss**. Recorded several times by Hamilton, at Pritchard's Nursery (1893), in the Quarry (1899) and 'under a semi-transparent cellar-flap in the middle of the town' (1903).

Pohlia melanodon*, **Pink-fruited Thread-moss. On bare ground by the Severn at the English Bridge.

Bryum capillare, **Capillary Thread-moss**. Frequent on walls and trees.

B. argenteum*, **Silver-moss. Frequent particularly at the base of walls and in pavement cracks.

B. dichotomum*, **Bicoloured Bryum. Frequent on bare ground.

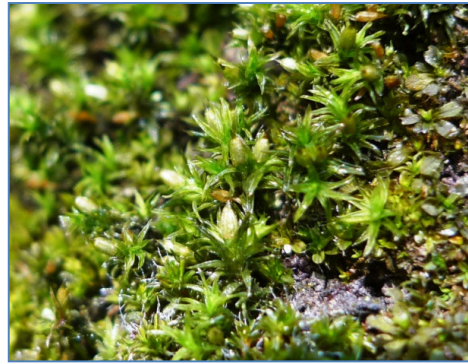
B. rubens*, **Crimson-tuber Thread-moss. On bare ground by the Severn at the English Bridge.

Orthotrichum affine*, **Wood Bristle-moss. Occasional as an epiphyte – mostly on willows.

O. anomalum, **Anomalous Bristle-moss**, occasional.

O. cupulatum*, **Hooded Bristle-moss. On a gravestone at St Mary's.

O. rivulare*, **River Bristle-moss. On willows by the Severn.



Orthotrichum rivulare

O. sprucei*, **Spruce's Bristle-moss. On willows by the Severn.

O. diaphanum*, **White-tipped Bristle-moss. On stonework by the Severn at the English Bridge.

†*Fontinalis antipyretica*, **Greater Water-moss**. 'Frequent by the Severn in Shrewsbury' (Hamilton, 1899).

Amblystegium serpens*, **Creeping Feather-moss. Occasional by the Severn.

†*A. tenax*, **Fountain Feather-moss**. Near Pengwern Boat-house in 1893 (Hamilton).

Calliergonella cuspidata*, **Pointed Spear-moss. Frequent on damp ground by the river.

Homalothecium sericeum*, **Silky Wall Feather-moss. Occasional.

Brachythecium rutabulum, **Rough-stalked Feather-moss**. Frequent in grassland.

Brachytheciastrum velutinum, **Velvet Feather-moss**. Frequent, particularly on damp brickwork in churchyards and in the Quarry.

†*Rhynchostegium murale*, **Wall Feather-moss**. In the Dingle in 1899 (Hamilton).

R. confertum, **Clustered Feather-moss**. Occasional.

Kindbergia praelonga, **Common Feather-moss**. Frequent in damp grassland.

Oxyrrhynchium hians*, **Swartz's Feather-moss. By the Severn at the English Bridge.

†*Pleurozium schreberi*, **Red-stemmed Feather-moss**. In Beck's Field in 1996.

Hypnum cupressiforme*, **Cypress-leaved Plait-moss. Occasional on trees and on stonework in the churchyards and near the river.

Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus, **Springy Turf-moss**. Occasional in grassland.

Vascular plants (flowering plants and ferns)

†*Equisetum fluviatile*, **Water Horsetail**. Leighton collected a specimen from the banks of the Severn in Shrewsbury in 1833 (SHY) and Phillips reported that it was still there in 1878, but it has not been recorded since.

E. xlitore* (*E. fluviatile* × *arvense*), **Shore Horsetail. A sizeable patch (1 m x 3 m) on the bank of the Severn just below Kingsland Bridge, SJ489120, on 12th May 2010 (BIRM). Not previously recorded in this 10 km square.

E. arvense, **Field Horsetail**. Frequent on the banks of the Severn and on waste ground.

Pteridium aquilinum, **Bracken**. Rare on walls: one plant on the façade of the Halifax bank on High Street (Hoare) and behind a drainpipe outside Camera Exchange (Lockton, 1997). There are also good sized stands in Beck's Field by Kingsland Bridge (Morris) and in St Chad's churchyard (Hoare).

Asplenium scolopendrium, **Hart's-tongue**. Occasional on damp or shady walls throughout, most notably on retaining walls adjacent to the river and under the railway bridge. Plants also occur on the ground in Beck's Field, under trees.

A. adiantum-nigrum, **Black Spleenwort**. Very rare on the walls of the Abbey (Lockton, 2009) and on a wall in Coton Hill (Swindells, 2008), but not recorded within the town centre.

A. trichomanes, **Maidenhair Spleenwort**. Rare, on the façade of the Halifax bank on High Street (Hoare).

A. ruta-muraria, **Wall-rue**. Occasional on damp walls throughout. Especially fine plants occur on a wall adjacent to Kingsland Bridge.

Athyrium filix-femina, **Lady Fern**. On the banks of the river in Beck's Field and on the river wall near St Mary's Water Lane.

†*Polystichum setiferum*, **Soft Shield-fern**. Recorded by Earl in Beck's Field in 2005.

Dryopteris filix-mas, **Common Male Fern**. On walls by the river and in grassland and woodland in Beck's Field and on the brickwork of the railway bridge in Cross St.

D. dilatata, **Broad Buckler-fern**. In woodland in Beck's Field and on the brickwork of the railway bridge in Cross St.

Polypodium interjectum*, **Intermediate Polypody. On the wall of a garage on Town Walls.

Pseudotsuga menziesii*, **Douglas Fir. A fine specimen on the Edge of Beck's Field near

Porthill Bridge. This common forestry tree is rarely planted for ornament, and it looks much more impressive than normal when grown in the open.

Larix kaempferi*, **Japanese Larch. Rare, in Beck's Field.

Pinus sylvestris, **Scots Pine**. Several trees in Beck's Field, and recently planted in Blackfriars Field.

P. nigra*, **Austrian Pine. Several fine trees near Kingsland Bridge.

P. wallichiana*, **Bhutan Pine. Planted by Kingsland Bridge, on Shrewsbury School side.

Taxus baccata, **Yew**. Frequent in hedges around the Quarry and in gardens; occasionally as specimen trees in Beck's Field and churchyards. Self-sown seedlings are common.

†*Nuphar lutea*, **Yellow Water-lily**. Collected by Benson in Shrewsbury in 1888. He does not give any further details, but it could have been in the river.

Liriodendron tulipifera*, **Tulip Tree. One fine tree, planted on the edge of the river just below the Welsh Bridge.



Liriodendron tulipifera leaves by the Quantum Leap.

†*Papaver somniferum*, **Opium Poppy**. A common garden plant, growing as a casual on waste ground in Greyfriars. Benson found it by Welsh Bridge in 1888 and it grew on the towpath near English Bridge in 1994 (Whild & Lockton).

†*P. rhoeas*, **Common Poppy**. Considered by Leighton to be common about Shrewsbury in 1841, but it was last recorded by Matthews in Frankwell in 1981.

†*P. dubium*, **Long-headed Poppy**. Considered by Leighton to be common about Shrewsbury in 1841, but only seen on roadsides in Castlefields this year.

Meconopsis cambrica, **Welsh Poppy**. A casual in St Julian's churchyard.

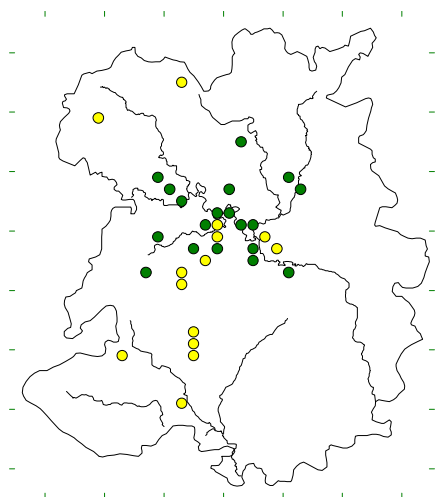
Chelidonium majus, **Greater Celandine**. A common garden escape, listed by Leighton in 1841 and found this year in Beck's Field, at St Julian's, by the tennis courts and on a wall in Victoria Quay.

Pseudofumaria lutea, **Yellow Corydalis**. Occasional on walls and waste ground, at Kingsland Bridge, Bowdler's House and St Julian's.

Fumaria bastardii, **Tall Ramping-fumitory**. Recorded just outside the survey area in 2007 by Whild and Lockton in an area of waste ground between the prison and the station car park.

F. muralis, **Common Ramping-fumitory**. First recorded in 1839 by Leighton. Occasional in disturbed areas and in some quantity along the dry banks of the Slang.

F. purpurea, **Purple Ramping-fumitory**. A real speciality of Shrewsbury, where it was first recorded (anywhere) in 1726 by Dillenius. It is an annual plant that grows in hedges, and it often appears in new places but does not persist. This year there were plants in a hedge near the bottom of St Mary's Water Lane and on the bank above the Slang by Kingsland Bridge. Plants in Shropshire are ssp. *brevisepala*.



Fumaria purpurea in Shropshire, showing the concentration of sites around Shrewsbury. Green dots are for recent records (since 1985).

F. officinalis, **Common Fumitory**. First recorded by Leighton in 1835 as a weed in cornfields around Shrewsbury. Canon Thomas Butler described it as a weed in the gardens of Shrewsbury. Found growing with two other species of fumitory on the dry banks of the Slang.

†*Caltha palustris*, **Marsh Marigold**. First recorded in 1878 by Philips and the only subsequent record is by Iremonger, who recorded it from the Barge Gutter in Frankwell Fields in 1998. Not recorded in the present survey.

†*Helleborus foetidus*, **Stinking Hellebore**. One plant established on a wall (presumably from the gardens above) on St Mary's Water Lane for many years but disappeared when the wall was re-pointed in 2005.

Clematis vitalba, **Traveller's Joy**. First recorded in 1890 at St Julian's Friars by Benson and still frequent on disturbed ground where there is some calcareous influence from old mortar. Present on old buildings and walls along the river and in Beck's Field.

Ranunculus acris, **Meadow Buttercup**. Frequent in old grassland along the river banks, in Beck's Field and Blackfriars Meadow.

R. repens, **Creeping Buttercup**. Abundant in damper grassland along the river banks, in Beck's Field, Burr's Field and the lower slopes of Blackfriars Meadow.

R. bulbosus, **Bulbous Buttercup**. Frequent on the dry slopes of Beck's Field.

†*R. parviflorus*, **Small-flowered Buttercup**. Recorded by Leighton in 1841 in Shrewsbury but with no location listed. It was not found in the current survey but has been recorded in recent years from car parks on the edge of the town.

†*R. arvensis*, **Corn Buttercup**. This annual species was first recorded by Wilson in 1835 in fields in Shrewsbury and by Leighton in 1841, by Melvill in 1928 in a garden in Mountfields in Shrewsbury, and most recently in 1956 by Mackenzie in an unspecified location in Shrewsbury.

R. auricomus, **Goldilocks Buttercup**. In just one place, in woodland at the top of Beck's Field just below Shrewsbury School. Known here since at least 1998 (Morris & Ramsbotham).

R. sceleratus, **Celery-leaved Buttercup**. Areas of bare mud are favoured by this species and in Shrewsbury it has only ever been recorded from English Bridge on the muddy banks. The first record was in 1998 and it was still present in this survey period.

†*R. omiophyllus*, **Round-leaved Crowfoot**. Butler recorded this from The Quarry in 1886 but it has not been recorded anywhere in Shrewsbury since.

†*R. trichophyllus*, **Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot**. Recorded from 'a pit near the old factory' by Leighton in 1841 and not seen since.

†*R. aquatilis*, **Common Water-crowfoot**. Recorded from 'a pit west of the old factory' by Leighton in 1836 and not seen since.

R. fluitans, **River Water-crowfoot**. Leighton first recorded this from the River Sever in Shrewsbury in 1830 and it has been recorded

regularly since then. There are identification ambiguities surrounding River Water-crowfoot and sometimes it has been over-recorded in Shropshire as it is 'the crowfoot that grows in rivers.' *R. fluitans* is not a common species in Britain, being confined to large lowland rivers usually with a silty substrate and these lower reaches of the Severn are typical habitat for it.

Ficaria verna, **Lesser Celandine**. This vernal species was first recorded by Phillips in 1878 and has been recorded since then from Beck's Fields, Frankwell Fields and English Bridge.

†*Aquilegia vulgaris*, **Columbine**. In Beck's Field where it was most probably a garden escape, recorded just once in 1998 by Morris, Ramsbotham and Iremonger.

Platanus ×hispanica, **London Plane**. Planted in the grounds of St Mary's church.

†*Ribes rubrum*, **Red Currant**. First recorded from The Flash in 1880 by Thomas Butler and recorded from Frankwell Fields in 1998 by Ron Iremonger but not seen during this survey.

R. nigrum, **Black Currant**. A few bushes growing in the scrub on slopes of Beck's Fields.

Saxifraga granulata, **Meadow Saxifrage**. A few dozen plants on a cattle-grazed slump on Beck's Field, by the river. Leighton collected it there ('meadow near Harwood's boat-house and Severn hill') on 14th May 1834 (SHY), and it has been seen many times since. The population fluctuates quite a lot: in 1995 there were apparently just a few plants (Glover) but there were as many as 100 in 1994. It requires bare ground for seeds to germinate on, but not so much disturbance that the plants are all destroyed.



Saxifraga granulata

S. tridactylites, **Rue-leaved Saxifrage**. On walls in front of the Gateway, Chester Street, and below the sixth form college. It was previously recorded by Leighton in 1841, 'on walls and house-tops.' It has also been seen on the railway line by the station (Wrench, 2004 & Ramsbotham, 2010).

†*Sempervivum tectorum*, **House-leek**. An unlocalised Shrewsbury record by Phillips in 1878.

Sedum acre, **Biting Stonecrop**. Recorded by Leighton and Phillips in 1841 and 1878 respectively and not recorded again until this survey when Green and Leonard found it in Bowdler's House car park.

Myriophyllum spicatum, **Spiked Water-milfoil**. Leighton recorded this from the Severn in Shrewsbury in 1841 and it has been recorded many times since including this current survey. It forms a distinctive community of submerged aquatic plants which can be seen clearly in the summer when the water levels fall.

Lotus corniculatus, **Common Bird's-foot-trefoil**. Occasional in the more species-rich grassland at Beck's Field and Blackfriars. First recorded by Phillips in 1878. The exotic var. *sativus* grows at Old St Chad's (Leonard & Green).

Vicia cracca, **Tufted Vetch**. Occasional in long grass by the river, seen only in the Quarry this year. First recorded by Phillips in 1878.

V. hirsuta, **Hairy Tare**. In Blackfriars field; previously recorded only by Phillips (1878).

V. sativa, **Common Vetch**. In grassland at Old St Chad's and Blackfriars. Described by Leighton (1841) as growing 'generally about Shrewsbury.'

†*V. faba*, **Broad Bean**. As a casual on the towpath of the river in 2003 (Draper).

Lathyrus pratensis, **Meadow Vetchling**. In Beck's Field and, some years, on the riverbank in the Quarry. First recorded by Phillips in 1878.

†*Melilotus albus*, **White Melilot**. Between 1969 and 1976 it was known on the waste ground of the old Smithfield behind Woolworths (Mackenzie and Prideaux).

Medicago lupulina, **Black Medick**. Recorded only in Burr's Field this year, but previously seen in Beck's Field and the Quarry; first recorded by Phillips (1878).

Trifolium repens, **White Clover**. Frequent in Beck's Field, Burr's Field and the Quarry; doubtless in grassland elsewhere. First recorded by Phillips (1878).

T. campestre, **Hop Trefoil**. 'About Shrewsbury' according to Hamilton (1909), but the only recent record is from Cophthorne (Lockton, 2007).

T. dubium, **Lesser Trefoil**. Frequent in grassland in Beck's Field and Blackfriars. First recorded by Phillips (1878).

T. pratense, **Red Clover**. Occasional in grassland in Beck's Field, Burr's Field and along the river. First recorded by Phillips (1878).

†*Cytisus scoparius*, **Broom**. Formerly rare in Beck's Field, where it was first recorded by Parker in 1990. Not seen there again this year.

†*Ulex europaeus*, **Gorse**. Listed by Lloyd (1939), with *Ulex gallii*, as 'generally about Shrewsbury' but it has not been recorded within our survey area.

Prunus spinosa, **Blackthorn**. In Beck's and Burr's fields; first recorded by Phillips (1878).

†*P. domestica*, **Wild Plum**. Recorded by Leighton (1841) in 'hedges about Shrewsbury' and seen by Parker in Burr's Field in 1985, but not recorded this year.

†*P. lusitanica*, **Portugal Laurel**. Listed by Parker for Beck's Field in 1985. It is occasional in gardens.



Prunus lusitanica

P. laurocerasus*, **Cherry Laurel. Planted specimens in Burr's Field and Blackfriars Field, and in gardens around town.

Sorbus aucuparia, **Rowan**. Planted in Becks, Burr's and Blackfriars fields. First recorded by Phillips (1878).

†*S. aria*, **Whitebeam**. Recorded by Parker in Burr's Field in 1985.

Crataegus monogyna, **Hawthorn**. Occasional along the river, on both sides, and forming patches of scrub in Beck's and Burr's fields. Also used for hedging in the Quarry. First recorded by Phillips (1878).

Filipendula ulmaria, **Meadowsweet**. Occasional along the river, on both sides, in grassland and growing out of the embankment. First recorded by Phillips (1878).

†*Rubus tricolor*, **Chinese Bramble**. Formerly established by the towpath near Greyfriars Bridge (Whild, 2004) but eradicated during redevelopment of the area.

R. idaeus, **Raspberry**. Recorded only in Burr's Field this year, but previously seen in Beck's Field (e.g. Parker, 1985). Recorded 'in Shrewsbury' since 1873 (Bodenham).

R. fruticosus agg., **Bramble**. Several microspecies, perhaps better described as varieties, of bramble have been recorded in Shrewsbury over the years, most recently by D.P. Earl in 2005. Most famously, *leightonii* was discovered by Leighton in the field in front of the Cann Office (i.e. Burr's Field) in 1836, but the bush was cut down when the Burr's bought the house. It is not a rare bramble, however. Other named microspecies in the area include:

- *lindleianus*, in Beck's Field (Earl) and Shrewsbury (Leighton 1847)
- *armeniacus*, in Beck's Field (Earl)
- *ulmifolius*, in Beck's Field (Earl) and Shrewsbury (Leighton 1847)
- *bartonii*, in Beck's Field (Earl)
- *vestitus*, in Beck's Field (Earl)
- *dasyphyllus*, in Beck's Field (Earl)
- *conjungens*, Shrewsbury (Leighton, 1847)
- *tuberculatus*, in Beck's Field (Earl)

†*R. caesius*, **Dewberry**. Roadside near The Flash (Leighton, 1841), probably outside the area of the current survey.

Potentilla anserina, **Silverweed**. In damp grassland in Beck's Field and the Quarry.

P. reptans, **Creeping Cinquefoil**. In Beck's Field and Blackfriars Meadow.

P. sterilis, **Barren Strawberry**. Occasional in Beck's Field.

Fragaria vesca, **Wild Strawberry**. In Old St Chad's churchyard.

Geum urbanum, **Wood Avens**. Occasional on waste ground and in hedges throughout.

†*Agrimonia eupatoria*, **Agrimony**. Recorded by Phillips in 1878.

†*Alchemilla mollis*, **Lady's-mantle**. A casual by the river in 1994 (Whild & Lockton).

†*Rosa arvensis*, **Field Rose**. Recorded in Beck's Field by Morris, Ramsbotham & Iremonger in 1998.

R. canina, **Dog Rose**. In Beck's Field and in a hedge near the tennis courts.

R. mollis, **Soft Downy-rose**. By the English Bridge.

Ulmus glabra, **Wych Elm**. In Beck's Field; also recorded in Burr's Field in 1985 by Parker.

U. xhollandica, **Dutch Elm**. In the grounds of the Council House, below the castle.

U. procera, **English Elm**. In Beck's Field.

†*U. plotii*, **Plot's Elm**. Recorded by Druce in Shrewsbury in 1921; possibly outside the area of the current survey.

Urtica dioica, **Stinging Nettle**. Frequent on waste ground and long grass throughout.

U. urens, **Small Nettle**. In a flower bed near Welsh Bridge in 2007. First recorded by Leighton in 1841.

Parietaria judaica, **Pellitory-of-the-Wall**. Frequent on walls and waste ground throughout. First recorded by Leighton in 1841, 'Council House and Town Walls.'

Soleirolia soleirolii, **Mind-your-own-business**. Abundant in the Dingle and in Crescent Lane.

Fagus sylvatica, **Beech**. In Beck's Field and Burr's Field.

Quercus robur, **Pedunculate Oak**. In Beck's Field, Burr's Field and the Quarry.

Q. rubra*, **Red Oak. In Beck's Field.

†*Juglans regia*, **Walnut**. Recorded in Beck's Field in 1998, by Morris, Ramsbotham and Iremonger.

Betula pendula, **Silver Birch**. In Beck's Field.

B. pubescens, **Downy Birch**. By the Severn at English Bridge.

Alnus glutinosa, **Alder**. Until recently, frequent along the river bank, but now rather sparse, and most of the remaining trees show signs of disease. First recorded along the river by Leighton in 1841.

Carpinus betulus, **Hornbeam**. Planted in Beck's Field. The variety *incisa* grows in the Quarry near the swimming pool; planted there in about 1905 (Hamilton).

Corylus avellana, **Hazel**. In Beck's Field.

Bryonia dioica, **White Bryony**. In Blackfriars Meadow and the Slang. Previously recorded in Beck's Field by Parker in 1990. Lloyd considered it to be 'common all around Shrewsbury' in 1968.

Oxalis corniculata, **Procumbent Yellow-sorrel**. A common garden weed that sometimes escapes onto roadsides. First recorded in Shrewsbury by Aikin in 1805, when it was abundant near the Welsh Bridge for a while. It grows in the detached churchyard of St Julian's.

O. exilis, **Least Yellow-sorrel**. In a car park on Town Walls and on walls at St Julian's. First recorded here by Stokes in 1994.

†*Mercurialis annua*, **Annual Mercury**. In flower beds by the war memorial in the Quarry in 1976 (Connell & Oswald). It has not been recorded inside the loop since then, but it is frequent around Frankwell.

Euphorbia dulcis, **Sweet Spurge**. Naturalised in Old St Chad's churchyard. First recorded by Stokes in 2007 and also recorded this year.

E. helioscopia, **Sun Spurge**. First recorded by Phillips in 1878 and seen this year in disturbed ground near Greyfriars.

E. lathyris, **Caper Spurge**. Recorded by Leighton in 1841 from cultivated ground in Shrewsbury and recorded from Old St Chad's this year.

E. peplus, **Petty Spurge**. A common weed of disturbed areas; seen at Coleham Head, Old St Chad's and Greyfriars.

†*Populus alba*, **White Poplar**. Recorded in Beck's Field in 1985 by Parker.

P. xcanescens*, **Grey Poplar. Planted in the memorial garden for Roy Beard by Porthill Bridge.

P. nigra, **Black Poplar**. There are specimens of the native ssp. *betulifolia* in Frankwell Fields, by the Barge Gutter (just outside our area of survey). Also listed for Shrewsbury by Phillips (1878), and by the river below Cherry Orchard by Hamilton in 1903. The introduced var. *italica* is planted in several places around the town.



Populus nigra ssp. *italica*

- P. ×canadensis*, **Hybrid Black Poplar**. Along the river bank at Gay Meadow and around the river at Frankwell Fields.
- Salix fragilis*, **Crack Willow**. Frequent along the banks of the Severn, where it was first recorded by Leighton in the 1830s. All plants are ssp. *russelliana*.
- †*S. alba*, **White Willow**. Recorded by Leighton on the castle mound in c. 1841.
- S. ×sepulcralis*, **Weeping Willow**. Planted at intervals along both sides of the river.
- S. triandra*, **Almond Willow**. occasionally grows on the mud bank by the English Bridge. Last seen there in 2004 (Whild & Lockton).
- S. ×mollissima* (*S. triandra* × *viminalis*), **Sharp-stipuled Willow**. A good stand on the mud bank by the English Bridge this year. First recorded here by Preston in 1998, but noted by Leighton as a Shrewsbury tree in 1841 (at Meole Brace).
- S. viminalis*, **Osier**. Frequent along the river banks; thriving since most of the alders died a few years ago. First noted here by Leighton in 1841.
- S. ×smithiana* (*S. cinerea* or *caprea* × *viminalis*), **Silky-leaved Osier**. One or two shrubs along the river bank in the Quarry. Probably also recorded here by Leighton (as *S. ferruginea*) in 1841 and 1842.
- S. caprea*, **Goat Willow**. In Beck's Field this year. Sometimes it establishes itself in the stone wall of the river embankment (e.g. in 1998 (Lockton & Whild) but it gets sprayed before it causes much damage. First recorded in this area by Hamilton in 1904, on the railway.
- S. ×reichardtii* (*S. caprea* × *cinerea*) **Hybrid Willow**. Occasionally turns up on waste ground, as on the mud bank by the English Bridge in 1998 (Lockton) and on the riverbank below the Gateway car park in recent years.
- S. cinerea*, **Grey Willow**. Occasional along both banks of the river. First recorded here by Phillips in 1878.
- Viola odorata*, **Sweet Violet**. One clump on the towpath by St Mary's Water Lane. Previously recorded in Burr's Field (Parker, 1985) and in an unspecified location in Shrewsbury by Leighton in 1835.
- V. riviniana*, **Common Dog-violet**. Occasional in Beck's Field and the Quarry. First recorded by Phillips in 1878.
- V. tricolor*, **Wild Pansy**. Only in St Mary's Water Lane. First recorded by Leighton in 1841.
- †*Linum perenne*, **Perennial Flax**. Recorded by Prideaux in 1979 on a garden path in Claremont Bank; probably from bird seed.
- Hypericum calycinum*, **Rose-of-Sharon**. Planted in flower beds in the Quarry.
- †*H. androsaemum*, **Tutsan**. Self-sown in the river embankment in 1994 but not persisting (Whild & Lockton).
- H. perforatum*, **Perforate St John's-wort**. First recorded by Leighton in 1841; still present in Beck's Field and along the river.
- **H. ×desetangsii* (*perforatum* × *maculatum*), **Des Etangs's St John's-wort**. Rare, on the river bank in the Quarry.
- H. maculatum*, **Imperforate St John's-wort**. Occasional in Beck's Field, Blackfriars Meadow and by the English Bridge. First recorded at Frankwell by Evans in 1805.
- H. hirsutum*, **Hairy St John's-wort**. One plant on the river bank in the Quarry. Previously recorded by Hamilton in 1909.
- †*Geranium pratense*, **Meadow Crane's-bill**. Recorded by Phillips in 1878 in the Dingle and on a rubbish heap near Burr's Ferry, 'probably an escape from the gardens.'
- †*G. sanguineum*, **Bloody Crane's-bill**. 'Opposite Foundry near St Julian's Friars' (Phillips, 1869).
- G. dissectum* L., **Cut-leaved Crane's-bill**. Occasional in grassland and edges of paths on both sides of the river.
- G. pyrenaicum*, **Hedgerow Crane's-bill**. In Beck's Field on edge of footpath
- †*G. pusillum*, **Small-flowered Crane's-bill**. Recorded by Phillips in 1878 as frequent.
- G. molle*, **Dove's-foot Crane's-bill**. In grassland at Old St Chad's.
- **G. lucidum*, **Shining Crane's-bill**. In Beck's Field.
- G. robertianum*, **Herb-robert**. Frequent as a weed on rough ground throughout.
- Lythrum salicaria*, **Purple-loosestrife**. Frequent along the banks of the Severn.
- Epilobium hirsutum*, **Great Willowherb**. Frequent throughout in disturbed areas on rich soils and as part of a tall herb community on the river bank.
- E. parviflorum*, **Hoary Willowherb**. Recorded from Beck's Field and allotments in Shrewsbury.
- E. montanum*, **Broad-leaved Willowherb**. Found in Beck's Field, Frankwell and Old St Chad's.
- E. ciliatum*, **American Willowherb**. First recorded in 1990 by Parker in Frankwell; frequent on bare

- ground including Beck's Field and the river towpath where a white-flowered form was recorded by Whild at the bottom of St Mary's Water Lane in 2009.
- †*Chamerion angustifolium*, **Rosebay Willowherb**. Surprisingly rare; found within the survey area only once, in Beck's Field by Parker in 1985.
- †*Oenothera biennis*, **Common Evening-primrose**. Recorded just once in 1888 by Benson from Kingsland Bridge.
- Circaea lutetiana*, **Enchanter's-nightshade**. Occasional in Beck's Field, Blackfriars Meadow and The Dingle.
- Aesculus hippocastanum*, **Horse-chestnut**. Planted and naturalized; recorded from Beck's Field, Burr's Field and along the river.
- Acer campestre*, **Field Maple**. First recorded by Phillips in 1878 who described it as 'not uncommon' but found in just one place, by English Bridge this year.
- A. pseudoplatanus*, **Sycamore**. Frequent throughout the survey area, as mature trees, seedlings and saplings.
- †*Malva moschata*, **Musk-mallow**. Recorded by Leighton in 1841 as common about Shrewsbury; not recorded since.
- M. sylvestris*, **Common Mallow**. Occasional along the river towpath, The Slang and Beck's Field.
- M. neglecta*, **Dwarf Mallow**. In Beck's Field, on the hill (Morris & Ramsbotham, 1st June 2010). Previously recorded only by Leighton (1841) at The Mount and in Coleham.
- Tilia xeuropaea* (*cordata* × *platyphyllos*), **Common Lime**. Planted throughout the Quarry and also in Beck's Field.
- Reseda luteola*, **Weld**. Occasional records from around Shrewsbury including the last record in 2004 from Beck's Field.
- Erysimum cheiri*, **Wallflower**. First recorded by Whitwell in 1865 'in the ancient gateway near the bottom of St Mary's Water Lane' and still present in rough areas and walls, most recently from Town Walls.
- Arabidopsis thaliana*, **Thale Cress**. A diminutive annual weed that is common on waste ground, walls and pavements.
- Capsella bursa-pastoris*, **Shepherd's-purse**. Frequent in pavement cracks, along the river and in waste places.
- Barbarea vulgaris*, **Winter-cress**. Occasional along the banks of the river in Beck's Field and the Quarry. First recorded by Leighton in 1835.
- B. stricta*, **Small-flowered Winter-cress**. Rare, on the embankment of the river between St Mary's Water Lane and the railway bridge. First recorded here in 2004.



Barbarea stricta

- †*B. verna*, **American Winter-cress**. Recorded by Rutter in 1957 on the wall of St Chad's Vicarage.
- Rorippa palustris*, **Marsh Yellow-cress**. An annual with tiny flowers. Occasional along the river, growing on the embankment between the English Bridge and the station. It has been recorded here often since 1800 (Williams).
- R. sylvestris*, **Creeping Yellow-cress**. A perennial, growing together with *R. palustris* on the embankment, and also on the banks of the river in the Quarry. It has also been recorded here frequently since 1800 (Williams).
- †*R. xanceps* (*sylvestris* × *amphibia*), **Hybrid Yellow-cress**. First recorded by Leighton in 1839, and described by Sinker (1985) as 'quite common along the Severn.' A specimen collected in 2006 by the English Bridge is waiting for confirmation.
- †*R. amphibia*, **Great Yellow-cress**. Intermittently on muddy banks by the river. First recorded in 1800 by Williams, and subsequently by English Bridge (1994) and Beck's Field (1998).
- Nasturtium officinale*, **Water-cress**. In a wet hollow behind the Pengwern Boathouse. First recorded by Phillips in 1878.
- Armoracia rusticana*, **Horse-radish**. Rare, by the Slang. First recorded by Leighton in 1841 on the banks of the river below the castle.
- Cardamine amara*, **Large Bitter-cress**. On the bank of the river just below Kingsland Bridge and on the riverbank in Frankwell Fields (Thornes & Dale). Although this is a common plant on the lower reaches of the Severn, this is about as far

- upstream as it reaches (although it was recorded at Shelton Rough in 1910 by Johnson). It also grows in a ditch at Coton Hill (Stokes, 1996).
- C. pratensis*, **Cuckoo-flower**. Widespread in grassland along the river. First recorded by Phillips in 1878.
- C. flexuosa*, **Wavy Bitter-cress**. Occasional along the river.
- C. hirsuta*, **Hairy Bitter-cress**. Abundant on walls, between paving stones, in car parks and on path sides throughout.
- †*Lepidium coronopus*, **Swine-cress**. ‘Waste ground at the top of the middle walk of Shrewsbury Quarry,’ Leighton, 1841.
- †*L. sativum*, **Garden Cress**. One plant on the towpath of the Severn below St Mary’s Water Gate in 1996 (Whild, conf. Mason). Previously recorded as a garden outcast by Butler in c. 1886 (SHY).
- †*L. campestre*, **Field Pepperwort**. Listed by Phillips in 1878; recently recorded near Coton Hill, outside the area of the current survey.
- L. didymum*, **Lesser Swine-cress**. At Old St Chad’s this year. Also recorded on ‘Severn side near the prison’ by W. Beacall in 1880 and a few times since then.
- Lunaria annua*, **Honesty**. Rare, in Beck’s Field.
- Alyssum montanum*, **Mountain Madwort**. Established on the towpath of the river below a house where it is grown as a rockery plant.
- †*Lobularia maritima*, **Sweet Alison**. On a roadside in the middle of town in 1994 (Stokes).
- †*Descurainia sophia*, **Flixweed**. ‘Generally about Shrewsbury’ according to Leighton in 1841.
- **Aubrieta deltoidea*, **Aubretia**. Self-sown on the embankment of the river near St Mary’s Water Lane.
- Erophila verna*, **Common Whitlowgrass**. On bare patches of soil in St Mary’s churchyard, and on cobbled drives such as on Castle Gates. First recorded by Phillips in 1878.
- †*Diplotaxis muralis*, **Annual Wall-rocket**. On the towpath at Greyfriars in 2004 and 2005, but eradicated by a new housing development.
- Brassica napus*, **Rape**. Rare, on the banks of the river (Whild & Swindells, 2004).
- B. rapa*, **Wild Turnip**. Rare, on the banks of the river (Whild & Swindells, 2004).
- B. nigra*, **Black Mustard**. Frequent on the banks of the river on both sides.
- †*Sinapis alba*, **White Mustard**. Recorded in Shrewsbury by Phillips in 1878.
- †*Raphanus raphanistrum*, **Wild Radish**. Recorded once as a casual by the river in 1994.
- Sisymbrium orientale*, **Eastern Rocket**. An occasional weed of car parks and waste ground. Recorded in 2009 along Smithfield Road and from The Gateway car park in 2002.
- S. officinale*, **Hedge Mustard**. Frequent along the river towpath and in Beck’s Field.
- Alliaria petiolata*, **Garlic Mustard**. A distinctive garlic-scented plant and a significant food plant of the Orange-tip Butterfly. Frequent in Beck’s Field, Burr’s Field and along the river.
- Thlaspi arvense*, **Field Penny-cress**. One plant recorded from waste ground along Smithfield Road (Wrench 2010).
- †*Cochlearia danica*, **Danish Scurvygrass**. First recorded in 1805 by Aikin on the walls of Shrewsbury Castle and by Beckwith, Phillips and Leighton as plentiful on roofs in Coton Hill, Chester Street and The Smithfield. Not recorded since 1889 in the area of survey but this salt-tolerant plant is now abundant inland along all major roads.
- Persicaria amphibia*, **Amphibious Bistort**. Growing in its terrestrial form at English Bridge on the muddy banks there and as a floating aquatic throughout the river loop in the Quarry.
- P. maculosa*, **Redshank**. Occasional along the river, especially at English Bridge. Also in Beck’s Field and St Julian’s churchyard.
- P. lapathifolia*, **Pale Persicaria**. Abundant at English Bridge on the muddy banks.
- P. hydropiper*, **Water-pepper**. Also abundant at English Bridge growing with *P. lapathifolia*, *maculosa* and *amphibia*.
- Polygonum aviculare*, **Knotgrass**. Found in dry bare places in most sites in the survey area, especially along the river towpath.
- Fallopia japonica*, **Japanese Knotweed**. Popular with Victorian gardeners for its impressive architecture, but now established in several places along the river, where it forms dense stands. There are currently patches in the Quarry, near the railway bridge and in Beck’s Field. Because it is on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (potentially damaging alien plants), the Council attempts to eradicate it.
- †*F. convolvulus*, **Black Bindweed**. First recorded by Phillips generally for the Shrewsbury area in 1887 and localised to ‘recently cleared ground by Greyfriars Bridge by T.P. Blunt in 1899. Last

- recorded in 1996 at an unlocalised spot in Shrewsbury.
- †*Rumex acetosella*, **Sheep's Sorrel**. Recorded in Beck's Field in 1998 but not seen since.
- R. acetosa*, **Common Sorrel**. Frequent in grassland in Beck's Field, Burr's Field and Blackfriars Meadow.
- R. crispus*, **Curled Dock**. Rare, disturbed places in Beck's Field and Blackfriars Meadow.
- **R. xpratensis* (*crispus* × *obtusifolius*). **Hybrid Dock**. One plant on the bank of the Severn in the Quarry, one in Blackfriars field and one in Old St Chad's. The leaves are narrower than those of *R. obtusifolius*, with slightly curled edges and a cordate base. It is a common hybrid, but easily overlooked.
- R. conglomeratus*, **Clustered Dock**. Frequent throughout the river loop.
- R. sanguineus*, **Wood Dock**. Frequent in Beck's field and below the Castle.
- R. obtusifolius*, **Broad-leaved Dock**. Very common throughout.
- R. maritimus*, **Golden Dock**. Found just once on the muddy shore by English Bridge. Hundreds of plants were found in 1994, growing with *Myosoton aquaticum*.
- †*Arenaria serpyllifolia*, **Thyme-leaved Sandwort**. Leighton first recorded this in 1841 and referred to it as 'growing on walls; frequent'. Hamilton recorded it from St Mary's Water Lane in 1909 and it was seen at the bottom of St Mary's Water Lane again in 1994.
- Moehringia trinervia*, **Three-nerved Sandwort**. On a wooded path at the top of Beck's Field.
- Stellaria media*, **Common Chickweed**. Frequent throughout.
- **S. pallida*, **Lesser Chickweed**. Found in short grassland in the Quarry, near Kingsland Bridge by Wrench in 2010. Usually associated more with dry sandy grassland on heaths, this species is probably under-recorded as it flowers very early and is somewhat inconspicuous.
- †*S. holostea*, **Greater Stitchwort**. First recorded by Leighton 1835 in hedges around Shrewsbury and recorded once from Beck's Field in 1998.
- S. graminea*, **Lesser Stitchwort**. Frequent in Beck's Field.
- S. alsine* **Bog Stitchwort**. In wet grassland in Beck's Field behind the Boathouse. Previously recorded only by Phillips in 1878.
- Cerastium fontanum*, **Common Mouse-ear**. Frequent throughout in grassy places.
- C. glomeratum*, **Sticky Mouse-ear**. Occasional in dry disturbed places.
- C. semidecandrum*, **Little Mouse-ear**. On a wall in the Quarry, near Porthill Bridge (Wrench). Previously recorded only by Phillips, 'not unfrequent in Shrewsbury,' in 1878.
- Myosoton aquaticum*, **Water Chickweed**. First recorded by Beckwith in 1882 who described it as frequent on the banks of the Severn. Consistently recorded from the muddy banks at English Bridge.
- Sagina procumbens*, **Procumbent Pearlwort**. Frequent on walls and in churchyards.
- S. apetala*, **Annual Pearlwort**. In dry thin soils along the towpath, often below St Mary's Water Lane.
- Spergula arvensis*, **Corn Spurrey**. First recorded by Leighton in 1835 and found on a muddy bank by Welsh Bridge by Stokes in 2005.
- Silene vulgaris*, **Bladder Campion**. In just one location, growing on the dry banks of The Slang.
- S. latifolia*, **White Campion**. Recorded by Phillips as common in 1878, and still present in several places around Shrewsbury, but not seen within the river loop this year.
- S. dioica*, **Red Campion**. Occasional in Beck's Field and Burr's Field.
- **Saponaria officinalis*, **Soapwort**. Several clumps of the double-flowered form growing on the banks of the Severn in The Quarry.
- †*Chenopodium bonus-henricus*, **Good King Henry**. Recorded by Leighton in 1841 at the foot of St Mary's Water Lane.
- **C. rubrum*, **Red Goosefoot**. Near English Bridge on the muddy banks.
- †*C. polyspermum*, **Many-seeded Goosefoot**. Just one record from 1837 by Mr. J.A. Power at an unspecified location in Shrewsbury.
- †*C. hybridum*, **Maple-leaved Goosefoot**. 'Recently cleared ground by Greyfriars Bridge' in 1899 by Blunt.
- C. ficifolium*, **Fig-leaved Goosefoot**. One plant on waste ground on Beeches Lane in 2009 (Bell), where it was first recorded by Stokes in 2000.
- C. album*, **Fat-hen**. An occasional weed of nutrient-rich places including The Quarry and Old St Chad's.
- **Atriplex prostrata*, **Spear-leaved Orache**. Along the towpath close to the river in disturbed places.
- A. patula*, **Common Orache**. An occasional weed of the Quarry flower beds and the towpath.

†*Amaranthus hybridus*, **Green Pigweed**. One plant from birdseed on the towpath by Greyfriars Bridge in 1994 (Stokes).

Phytolacca acinosa, **Indian Pokeweed**. Well established in Kingsland, where it escapes from gardens. It grows to 5 ft. tall and has poisonous berries.

Claytonia perfoliata*, **Springbeauty. Rare, on waste ground by platform 5 at the station (J. Ramsbotham, 21/4/2010). Not previously recorded in the 10 km square.

Impatiens glandulifera, **Indian Balsam**. First recorded in 1967 by Stan Turner who commented 'Along the banks of the River Severn, but less common than in previous years'. Abundant at English Bridge; occasional elsewhere along the Severn.



Impatiens glandulifera seedlings

Primula veris*, **Cowslip. Frequent in Blackfriars Meadow.

Anagallis arvensis, **Scarlet Pimpernel**. Frequent along the tow path in dry areas and also growing in walls.

Galium palustre, **Common Marsh-bedstraw**. Occasional along the river, growing out of the river wall and also on the mud bank at English Bridge.

G. verum, **Lady's Bedstraw**. A small amount in Beck's Field.

G. album, **Hedge Bedstraw**. Present in Beck's Field and in Blackfriars Meadow.

G. aparine, **Cleavers**. Frequent in most enriched places throughout the survey area.

Vinca major, **Greater Periwinkle**. A garden escape established in Beck's Field.

Symphytum officinale, **Common Comfrey**. Recorded just once in 2003 at Beck's Field (S. Roach & J. Ing).

S. grandiflorum*, **Creeping Comfrey. Several plants established in woodland at the top of Beck's Field; undoubtedly a garden escape.

Pentaglottis sempervirens, **Green Alkanet**. Frequent throughout in disturbed areas and hedges.

†*Borago officinalis*, **Borage**. Recorded as an escape in the grounds of Shrewsbury School in 1939 by Johnson.

Myosotis scorpioides, **Water Forget-me-not**. Frequent along the banks of the Severn.

M. sylvatica, **Wood Forget-me-not**. Rare, Beck's Field.

M. arvensis, **Field Forget-me-not**. Uncommon – on the upper part of banks along the Severn.

†*M. discolor*, **Changing Forget-me-not**. Leighton referred to this species as 'about Shrewsbury' but it has not been recorded since 1841.

Convolvulus arvensis, **Field Bindweed**. Common in grassy places and disturbed ground through the survey area.

Calystegia sepium, **Hedge Bindweed**. First recorded by Leighton in 1835 'on the banks of the River Severn and hedges about Shrewsbury' and still abundant in those places.

C. pulchra*, **Hairy Bindweed. In the Council House gardens.

†*Hyoscyamus niger*, **Henbane**. Recorded once by Blunt in 1899 from disturbed ground by Greyfriars Bridge.

Solanum nigrum, **Black Nightshade**. Recorded several times from 1841 to 1964 within the survey area and also from The Gateway car park during this survey.

S. dulcamara, **Bittersweet**. Found in Beck's Field and several other places close to the river.

S. tuberosum*, **Potato. One plant found growing as a casual at English Bridge.

Fraxinus excelsior, **Ash**. Throughout the survey area, as mature trees and also as seedlings and saplings.

†*Ligustrum vulgare*, **Wild Privet**. One unlocalised record from 1996.

Digitalis purpurea, **Foxglove**. Recorded in Beck's Field for many years.

Veronica montana, **Wood Speedwell**. Rare, in woodland at the top of Beck's Field.

V. beccabunga, **Brooklime**. On mud in Beck's Field behind the Boathouse and by the river at English Bridge.

V. serpyllifolia, **Thyme-leaved Speedwell**. Occasional. On bare ground and grassland in churchyards and Beck's Field.

V. hederifolia, **Ivy-leaved Speedwell**. In woodland towards the top of Beck's Field and in the prison gardens. In Beck's Field it was recorded as ssp. *lucorum* in 1996.

V. filiformis, **Slender Speedwell**. Established in lawns in the Quarry and around Shrewsbury Abbey. Previously recorded in Beck's Field but not seen there this year.

†*V. agrestis*, **Green Field-speedwell**. Recorded by Butler in c. 1886.

V. polita, **Grey Field-speedwell**. Rare, on waste ground at Coleham Head. Leighton (1841) recorded it on 'cultivated ground near Shrewsbury.'

V. persica, **Common Field-speedwell**. Locally abundant on waste ground near the tennis courts and near Greyfriar's Bridge.

V. chamaedrys, **Germander Speedwell**. In grassland in all the churchyards, at Beck's Field, Blackfriars Meadow and along the river.

V. arvensis, **Wall Speedwell**. On the towpath and at the base of walls at Old St Chad's, St Mary's, and on waste ground by Greyfriar's Bridge.

Antirrhinum majus, **Snapdragon**. On the wall along the Slang and on waste-ground adjoining Telephone House, Town Walls. First recorded by Leighton in 1841.

Cymbalaria muralis, **Ivy-leaved Toadflax**. Frequent on walls, especially on Town Walls, and between the cracks of the gravestones in the churchyards. First recorded by Leighton in 1841 on the 'Council-house garden wall in the Water-lane, Shrewsbury.'



Cymbalaria muralis

Linaria vulgaris, **Common Toadflax**. Occasional in Beck's Field and in grass verges beside the riverside paths both in the Quarry and below the Tennis Club. First recorded by Leighton in 1841.

†*L. purpurea*, **Purple Toadflax**. On roadsides and in waste ground around town since 1980 (Connell), including on the towpath of the Severn in 1994, but not seen this year.

Plantago major, **Greater Plantain**. Occasional in grassland and paths in the Quarry, Beck's Field and the Tennis Courts.

P. lanceolata, **Ribwort Plantain**. In grassland and on waste ground throughout.

Callitriche stagnalis, **Common Water-starwort**. Occasionally recorded in the Severn since 1878, most recently in 2004.

Verbascum thapsus, **Great Mullein**. Rare, on waste-ground adjoining Telephone House.

V. nigrum, **Dark Mullein**. An occasional casual on waste ground: by the Severn near the castle in 1994, and between the tracks at the railway station this year.

Scrophularia nodosa, **Common Figwort**. As a weed in the Dingle, in woodland at Beck's Field and Burr's Field, and on the bank of the river below the Gateway.

S. auriculata, **Water Figwort**. Occasional along the river, growing in walls and marginal vegetation.

†*Limosella aquatica*, **Mudwort**. 'About Shrewsbury' (Dillenius, 1726). Not recorded since. It still occurs sometimes on muddy banks along the Severn in Shropshire, but since the weir was constructed in 1910 it is unlikely to turn up in Shrewsbury again.

Buddleja davidii, **Butterfly-bush**. Frequent on walls, building sites and waste ground throughout the town. It often establishes itself in gutters and on the top of walls, where it can cause damage to brickwork.

Stachys sylvatica, **Hedge Woundwort**. First recorded in 1878 and still frequent throughout the survey area, including Old St Chad's, Beck's Field and the river banks.

S. ×ambigua* (*sylvatica* × *palustris*), **Hybrid Marsh Woundwort. Several plants found in 2010 at English Bridge by Wrench.

S. palustris*, **Marsh Woundwort. A rare constituent of the tall herb bankside flora.

Ballota nigra, **Black Horehound**. A frequent weed throughout the survey area.

Lamium album, **White Dead-nettle**. Frequent throughout the survey area, usually in more enriched grassy places.

L. purpureum, **Red Dead-nettle**. Occasional throughout in disturbed areas – a notable population near the tennis courts.

Glechoma hederacea, **Ground-ivy**. Frequent along the river bank and in Beck's Field. First recorded by Phillips in 1878.

Prunella vulgaris, **Selfheal**. In Beck's Field in grassy places.

Lycopus europaeus, **Gipsywort**. First recorded by Lee in 1937, still present in the tall herb bank side vegetation along the river.

Mentha arvensis, **Corn Mint**. Occasionally along the river and in Beck's Field.

M. ×verticillata (*arvensis* × *aquatica*), **Whorled Mint**. Recorded several times since 1996 along the river loop in The Quarry and at Welsh Bridge.

†*M. ×gracilis* (*arvensis* × *spicata*), **Bushy Mint**. Just one record from 1997 by Stokes below The Boathouse Inn.

†*M. aquatica*, **Water Mint**, has been recorded along the riverside several times, but was not seen there this year.

†*Salvia verbenaca*, **Wild Clary**. Williams recorded this in 1800 as being 'By side of footpath thro' St. Mary's Fields [Friars?], Shrewsbury.'

†*Mimulus guttatus*, **Monkeyflower**. Found in Beck's Field in 1990 and 1998 but not seen since.

Verbena officinalis, **Vervain**. Although Leighton recorded this species around Shrewsbury, the only localised record for our survey area is from The Gay Meadow car park in 2007 by Wrench.

Ilex aquifolium, **Holly**. Present in small quantities in Beck's Field and Burr's Field and occasionally in The Quarry and near Greyfriars.

†*Campanula patula*, **Spreading Bellflower**. Recorded in the vicinity of Shrewsbury by Bodenham in 1838 and 1839, and by Butler in the 1880s. It used to grow on the river banks at Shelton and Leaton Shelf, but it has long since gone from this part of the county.

C. poscharskyana, **Trailing Bellflower**. Several clumps on walls beside the English Bridge, established here for well over a decade.



Campanula poscharskyana

†*C. rotundifolia*, **Harebell**. Once recorded by Phillips in 1869 (SHY).

Lobelia erinus, **Garden Lobelia**. Naturalised on the towpath near St Mary's Water Lane in 2009 but not seen since.

Arctium minus, **Lesser Burdock**. Present in small quantities in Beck's Field, Burr's Field and Coleham Head.

Cirsium vulgare, **Spear Thistle**. A common weed in enriched disturbed places throughout the survey area; first recorded by Butler in 1878.

†*C. palustre*, **Marsh Thistle**. Recorded just once from Beck's Field in 1998; it isn't obvious why this species should be so rare along the river side.

C. arvense, **Creeping Thistle**. In most semi-natural grassy places in the survey area.

Centaurea nigra, **Common Knapweed**. Common in Beck's Field, Burr's Field, Blackfriars Meadow and other grassy places.

†*Cichorium intybus*, **Chicory**. Just one record by Melvill in 1926 who said 'This still maintains its place close to the R. Severn, at Shrewsbury, but is decidedly uncommon in the County'.

Lapsana communis, **Nipplewort**. Frequent in disturbed areas throughout.

Hypochaeris radicata, **Cat's-ear**. Common in the more species-rich grassy areas including Beck's Field, Blackfriars Meadow and Old St Chad's.

Scorzoneroideis autumnalis, **Autumnal Hawkbit**. First recorded by Phillips in 1878 but only seen in one location during this survey, in Old St Chad's.

Tragopogon pratensis, **Goat's-beard**. On the old Gay Meadow site and as a weed in a front garden on Town Walls

†*T. porrifolius*, **Salsify**. Once recorded in the old garden of Belmont House in 1961 (Mackenzie, SHY).

Sonchus arvensis, **Perennial Sow-thistle**. Found in small numbers in Beck's Field and in The Quarry.

S. oleraceus, **Smooth Sow-thistle**. An occasional weed of enriched disturbed places throughout the survey area.

S. asper, **Prickly Sow-thistle**. A similar distribution to Smooth Sow-thistle, above.

Lactuca serriola, **Prickly Lettuce**. In 2010 not as common as last year, but still growing at edges of footpaths and car parks.

Cicerbita macrophylla, **Common Blue-sow-thistle**. The first mention of this plant growing wild in Britain was in 1900, when Dr Calvert recorded a clump of *Lactuca alpina* near Kingsland Bridge. It was pronounced 'not quite typical' by the

- authorities at Kew a few years later, but it was not until 1922 that it was correctly identified by Druce from a specimen sent to the Botanical Exchange Club (BEC Rep. 1922, RBF 1923). Melvill claimed at this time that it had also been growing in a field at Meole Brace for thirty years, which would make his observation by far the earliest record of it in the wild in Britain, but memories can be unreliable and it seems best to let Wilkinson's record stand. Since then it has been recorded many times in the vicinity of Kingsland Bridge, and it was still present at the top of Beck's Field in 2010.
- Mycelis muralis*, **Wall Lettuce**. Recorded just twice, from Town Walls where it was, not surprisingly, growing on a wall.
- Taraxacum officinale* agg., **Dandelion**. Frequent throughout in grassy areas, disturbed areas and most waste places.
- Crepis capillaris*, **Smooth Hawk's-beard**. First recorded by Leighton in 1835 and recorded since then many times from Beck's Field, Blackfriars Meadow, Old St Chad's and along the river loop.
- †*Pilosella officinarum*, **Mouse-ear-hawkweed**. Recorded just once from Beck's Field in 1996.
- P. aurantiaca*, **Fox-and-cubs**. Locally abundant in Blackfriars Meadow.
- †*Hieracium acuminatum*, **Tall Hawkweed**. Recorded by Leighton in 1835 from 'the Dominican Friars', possibly what we now consider to be Blackfriars Meadow.
- **Filago vulgaris*, **Common Cudweed**. On the construction site of the old Gay Meadow football ground.
- Gnaphalium uliginosum*, **Marsh Cudweed**. Frequent on the muddy banks at English Bridge.
- Conyza canadensis*, **Canadian Fleabane**. Frequent on the old Gay Meadow site.
- Bellis perennis*, **Daisy**. Widespread in mown grassland and on waste ground at Bowdler's House car park.
- Tanacetum parthenium*, **Feverfew**. Occasional on the sides of paths, in St Mary's Water Lane and the Slang.
- T. vulgare*, **Tansy**. Frequent along the river on both banks.
- Artemisia vulgaris*, **Mugwort**. In the Quarry and Burr's Field, on the river bank.
- Achillea millefolium*, **Yarrow**. Frequent.
- Leucanthemum vulgare*, **Oxeye Daisy**. Only in Blackfriars Meadow this year. Previously in Beck's Field (Morris & Ramsbotham, 1998).
- Matricaria chamomilla*, **Scented Mayweed**. In grassland at Old St Chad's.
- M. discoidea*, **Pineapple Weed**. Widespread.
- Tripleurospermum inodorum*, **Scentless Mayweed**. Occasional along the towpath.
- Senecio jacobaea*, **Common Ragwort**. Occasional throughout the area, on roadsides, paths etc.
- S. xostenfeldii* (*jacobaea* × *aquaticus*), **Hybrid Ragwort**. Occasional along the riverbank.
- S. aquaticus*, **Marsh Ragwort**. Occasional along the edge of the river.
- S. squalidus*, **Oxford Ragwort**. Occasional along roadsides and railway lines.
- S. vulgaris*, **Groundsel**. Locally frequent throughout, on road sides, paths and in gardens.
- †*Tussilago farfara*, **Colt's-foot**. Recorded by the river in 1994 (Whild).
- Petasites fragrans*, **Winter Heliotrope**. A fine stand in Burr's Field spilling out of the garden at Kingsland Bank.
- Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, **Ragweed**. A rare casual on the towpath (Lockton, 2004).
- Bidens tripartita*, **Trifid Bur-marigold**. On a muddy bank by the English Bridge.
- Sambucus nigra*, **Elder**. Widespread.
- †*S. ebulus*, **Dwarf Elder**. In the Dingle in 1841 (Leighton).
- Viburnum opulus*, **Guelder-rose**. Overhanging the towpath from Tanner's car park. First recorded by Leighton in 1841, on the banks of the river.
- Symphoricarpos albus*, **Snowberry**. Naturalised in Beck's Field and Burr's Field.
- **Leycesteria formosa*, **Himalayan Honeysuckle**. One small plant on the edge of the towpath near the railway bridge.
- **Lonicera nitida*, **Wilson's Honeysuckle**. A fine plant, self-sown, on a wall below the 6th form college. Also planted in the Quarry.



Lonicera nitida

†*Valerianella locusta*, **Common Cornsalad**.
Recorded by Leighton in 1835.

V. carinata, **Keeled-fruited Cornsalad**. Casual on the towpath near St Mary's Water Lane in 2007 (Swindells).

Valeriana officinalis, **Common Valerian**. Frequent on both banks of the Severn. First recorded here by Leighton in 1835.

Centranthus ruber, **Red Valerian**. On the wall in St Mary's Water Lane.

Dipsacus fullonum, **Wild Teasel**. Several plants at Coleham Head.

Hedera helix, **Ivy**. Frequent.

H. hibernica, **Atlantic Ivy**. Planted at Greyfriars.

Chaerophyllum temulum, **Rough Chervil**. Rare, at the bottom of the Slang.

Anthriscus sylvestris, **Cow Parsley**. Frequent in grassy places throughout the area.

†*A. caucalis*, **Bur Chervil**. On Town Walls in 1906 (T.P. Blunt).

Smyrniolum olusatrum, **Alexanders**. Native to the eastern Mediterranean and said to have been introduced by the Romans as a salad vegetable until celery became more popular. In Shrewsbury it grows on the bank below the castle, where it has been known since at least 1800. It comes up each year, but it does not spread, and it is found along the towpath from the railway bridge to Blackfriars.



Smyrniolum olusatrum

Conopodium majus, **Pignut**. In Beck's Field, Burr's Field and at Greyfriars.

Aegopodium podagraria, **Ground-elder**.
Widespread. First recorded by Leighton on the banks of the river in the Quarry in 1841.

Oenanthe crocata, **Hemlock Water-dropwort**.
Frequent along the river on both banks.

Aethusa cynapium, **Fool's Parsley**. Occurs sporadically on bare ground. Seen this year at St Julian's.

Foeniculum vulgare, **Fennel**. Established by the Slang.

Conium maculatum, **Hemlock**. At the confluence of the Rea Brook and the Severn at Coleham Head. First recorded by Turner in 1967.

Angelica sylvestris, **Wild Angelica**. Occasional along the river.

Heracleum sphondylium, **Hogweed**. Widespread.

Arum maculatum, **Lords-and-ladies**. In Beck's and Burr's fields.

†*Spirodela polyrhiza*, **Greater Duckweed**. In the Dingle in 1878 (Phillips).

Alisma plantago-aquatica, **Water-plantain**. Rare, in the river by the Quarry; previously recorded in the Dingle in 1878 (Phillips).

Butomus umbellatus, **Flowering Rush**. Frequent in the river throughout the loop, but very rarely flowering. In 1895 Hamilton wrote: 'Severn, end of Marine Terrace, where it does not flower.' First recorded here by Williams in 1800.

†*Elodea canadensis*, **Canadian Waterweed**. 'Has found its way as high up as Shrewsbury' according to Randall in 1863. Also recorded by Parker at Beck's Field in 1990.

Potamogeton perfoliatus, **Perfoliate Pondweed**.
Frequent in the river.

P. pectinatus*, **Fennel Pondweed. Abundant in the river.

†*Colchicum autumnale*, **Meadow Saffron**. Recorded by Leighton at Dorset's Barn in 1841 and by Butler in c. 1886.

Lilium martagon, **Martagon Lily**. Naturalised in Kingsland, sometimes appearing in Beck's Field (Connell, 1976).

†*Iris pseudacorus*, **Yellow Iris**. In Burr's Field in 1985 (Parker). Previously recorded by Phillips in 1878.

I. foetidissima, **Stinking Iris**. Native. Probably bird sown in Old St Chad's churchyard and in the Quarry close to Porthill Bridge and by the tennis courts near Greyfriars.

Crocus vernus, **Spring Crocus**. In wild areas around Shrewsbury School and along footpaths in Beck's Field. Previously recorded by Leighton in 1835 at 'Dorset's Barn' – now part of Castlefields.

C. tommasinianus*, **Early Crocus. In the Quarry, St Chad's and Old St Chad's churchyards, and around Shrewsbury School; well naturalised.

C. chrysanthus*, **Golden Crocus. A common garden crocus, barely naturalised in the Quarry, where it has been planted in rings around some of the lime

- trees. Trampling and frequent mowing prevent it from spreading. It is abundant in the wildlife area around School House at Shrewsbury School and there are a few plants in the churchyards at St Chad's and Old St Chad's.
- C. biflorus*, **Silvery Crocus**. Like the former species, this is a common garden plant which is barely naturalised in the Quarry, although it is more widespread.
- C. nudiflorus*, **Autumn Crocus**. Not to be confused with Meadow Saffron, Autumn Crocus is well naturalised along the river in the Quarry since at least 1880 (Beckwith) and at Poplar Island in Frankwell since 1891 (Phillips). It flowers in early autumn.
- **Crocasmia xrocosmiiiflora* (*aurea* x *pottsii*), **Montbretia**. On rough ground by Town Walls.
- Allium ursinum*, **Ramsons**. By the Rad Brook in Burr's Field.
- A. vineale*, **Wild Onion**. A weed in the garden of the library. Previously recorded by Williams (1800) at Frankwell and by T. Butler in the Quarry in the 1880s.
- Galanthus nivalis*, **Snowdrop**. Naturalised by the cattle grid in Beck's Field and by the river below the prison.
- G. elwesii*, **Greater Snowdrop**. Naturalised in Old St Chad's churchyard.
- Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, **Daffodil**. Planted extensively. Many were donated by the generous burghers of our twin town of Zutphen.
- Scilla forbesii*, **Glory-of-the-snow**. One plant, amongst *S. luciliae*, in grassland in the Quarry.
- S. luciliae*, **Lesser Glory-of-the-snow**. A few plants naturalised in grassland the Quarry, close to Kingsland Bridge.
- Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, **Bluebell**. In Beck's Field, Burr's Field and Old St Chad's.
- **H. xmassartiana* (*non-scripta* x *hispanica*), **Hybrid Bluebell**. Rare in Beck's and Burr's fields.
- †*H. hispanica*, **Spanish Bluebell**. Recorded in Beck's Field by Parker in 1985.
- Ruscus aculeatus*, **Butcher's-broom**. 'Near Burr's Boathouse; not wild' (Phillips, 1878). Still there, but still not wild.
- †*Sparganium erectum*, **Branched Bur-reed**. In the river in 1994 (Whild), but not seen this year.
- Juncus articulatus*, **Jointed Rush**. By the river at Greyfriars. Previously recorded by Phillips in 1878.
- †*J. bufonius*, **Toad Rush**. Listed by Phillips in 1878.
- **J. inflexus*, **Hard Rush**. Rare, in Beck's Field.
- J. effusus*, **Soft-rush**. In Beck's Field and by the river at English Bridge.
- †*J. conglomeratus*, **Compact Rush**. Listed by Phillips in 1878.
- Luzula campestris*, **Field Wood-rush**. In grassland in Beck's Field and Blackfriars Meadow. First recorded by Phillips in 1878.
- Scirpus sylvaticus*, **Wood Club-rush**. Several clumps on the edge of the river in the Quarry.
- †*Carex xpseudoaxillaris* (*otrubae* x *remota*). Recorded in Shrewsbury in 1887 by J. Ball.
- **C. spicata*, **Spiked Sedge**. Several fine clumps in the lower parts of Blackfriars Meadow.
- **C. muricata* ssp. *pairae*, **Prickly Sedge**. A dozen or so clumps at the bottom of the Slang.
- C. remota*, **Remote Sedge**. On the stonework of the river embankment below St Mary's Water Lane.
- C. hirta*, **Hairy Sedge**. In Beck's Field and Blackfriars Meadow.
- C. acutiformis*, **Lesser Pond-sedge**. Frequent on the left bank of the river along the bottom of the Quarry, where it was first recorded in 2000 (Lockton). Also now on the Beck's Field side, very rare.
- †*C. pseudocyperus*, **Cyperus Sedge**. On the muddy bank by the English Bridge in 1994.
- **C. pendula*, **Pendulous Sedge**. Occasional patches along the length of the river in town – a recent colonist.
- †*C. caryophyllea*, **Spring Sedge**. Listed by Phillips in 1878 as common.
- C. acuta*, **Slender Tufted-sedge**. One clump by the river in Beck's Field, near Porthill Bridge. Also below the Gateway and on the opposite (Frankwell) bank.



Carex acuta

- Schedonorus pratensis*, **Meadow Fescue**. Rare, in Blackfriars Meadow.
- S. arundinaceus*, **Tall Fescue**. In Blackfriars Meadow and on the banks of the river; previously recorded here by Leighton in 1841.
- **S. giganteus*, **Giant Fescue**. In Beck's Field.
- Lolium perenne*, **Perennial Rye-grass**. Frequent in grassland throughout. First recorded here by Evans in 1805.
- L. multiflorum*, **Italian Rye-grass**. On waste ground at Coleham Head and, sometimes, on muddy banks by the river (Lockton, 2001).
- Festuca rubra*, **Red Fescue**. Frequent in grassland.
- F. ovina*, **Sheep's Fescue**. In Old St Chad's churchyard.
- Vulpia bromoides*, **Squirrel-tail Fescue**. On the towpath by St Mary's Water Lane.
- †*V. myuros*, **Rat's-tail Fescue**. Recorded by Williams in about 1800 on old walls in Shrewsbury. The only recent record is from Belle Vue in 1990 (J. Martin).
- Cynosurus cristatus*, **Crested Dog's-tail**. In Beck's Field and Blackfriars Meadow. First recorded by Phillips in 1878.
- †*Briza media*, **Quaking-grass**. Frequent, according to Phillips (1978).
- Poa annua*, **Annual Meadow-grass**. Frequent on bare ground, walls and paths throughout.
- P. trivialis*, **Rough Meadow-grass**. Frequent in grassland throughout.
- **P. humilis*, **Spreading Meadow-grass**. In Blackfriars Meadow and Beck's Field.
- P. pratensis*, **Smooth Meadow-grass**. In Blackfriars Meadow, Beck's Field, and St Chad's churchyard.
- **P. nemoralis*, **Wood Meadow-grass**. In an uncharacteristic habitat for this woodland species, on walls by the towpath near English Bridge.
- Dactylis glomerata*, **Cock's-foot**. Frequent in grassland and on waste ground.
- Catapodium rigidum*, **Fern-grass**. In just one place, on a wall below Marine Terrace. It is an annual and a calcicole, presumably growing there because of the old lime-rich mortar. It has been there since at least 2005 but does not seem to spread.
- Arrhenatherum elatius*, **False Oat-grass**. Frequent in grassland and hedges.
- **Avena fatua*, **Wild Oat**. On the river bank in the Quarry.
- A. sativa*, **Oat**. On a muddy bank by the English Bridge in 2001 (Lockton).
- Trisetum flavescens*, **Yellow Oat-grass**. Rare, only in Blackfriars Meadow.
- Holcus lanatus*, **Yorkshire-fog**. Frequent in grassland along the riverbanks and occasionally on walls.
- H. mollis*, **Creeping Soft-grass**. Recorded in Beck's Field in 1998 but not seen since.
- Anthoxanthum odoratum*, **Sweet Vernal Grass**. In Beck's Field and Blackfriars Meadow.
- Phalaris arundinacea*, **Reed Canary-grass**. Frequent along the river.
- †*P. canariensis*, **Canary-grass**. At English Bridge in 1878 (Jones).
- Agrostis capillaris*, **Common Bent**. Occasional in grassland.
- A. stolonifera*, **Creeping Bent**. Occasional in grassland.
- Alopecurus pratensis*, **Meadow Foxtail**. Frequent in damp grassland near the river.
- Bromus hordeaceus*, **Soft-brome**. In Burrs, Beck's and Blackfriars fields.
- Anisantha sterilis*, **Barren Brome**. Frequent on bare and waste ground throughout.
- Brachypodium sylvaticum*, **False-brome**. By the Severn at the English Bridge.
- Elymus caninus*, **Bearded Couch**. By the Severn at the English Bridge.
- Elytrigia repens*, **Common Couch**. Occasional along the length of the river.
- **Hordeum vulgare*, **Six-rowed Barley**. On the Slang.
- H. murinum*, **Wall Barley**. On waste ground on the edges of Beck's Field and the Quarry. First recorded by Leighton in 1841 at the castle, and also seen by Phillips in 1878 on walls near Burr's Ferry.
- †*Echinochloa colona*, **Shama Millet**. A bird seed casual at Greyfriars in 1994 (Stokes).
- Setaria pumila*, **Yellow Bristle-grass**. A bird seed casual at Greyfriars in 1994 (Stokes).
- S. viridis*, **Green Bristle-grass**. A bird seed casual at Greyfriars in 1994 (Stokes).

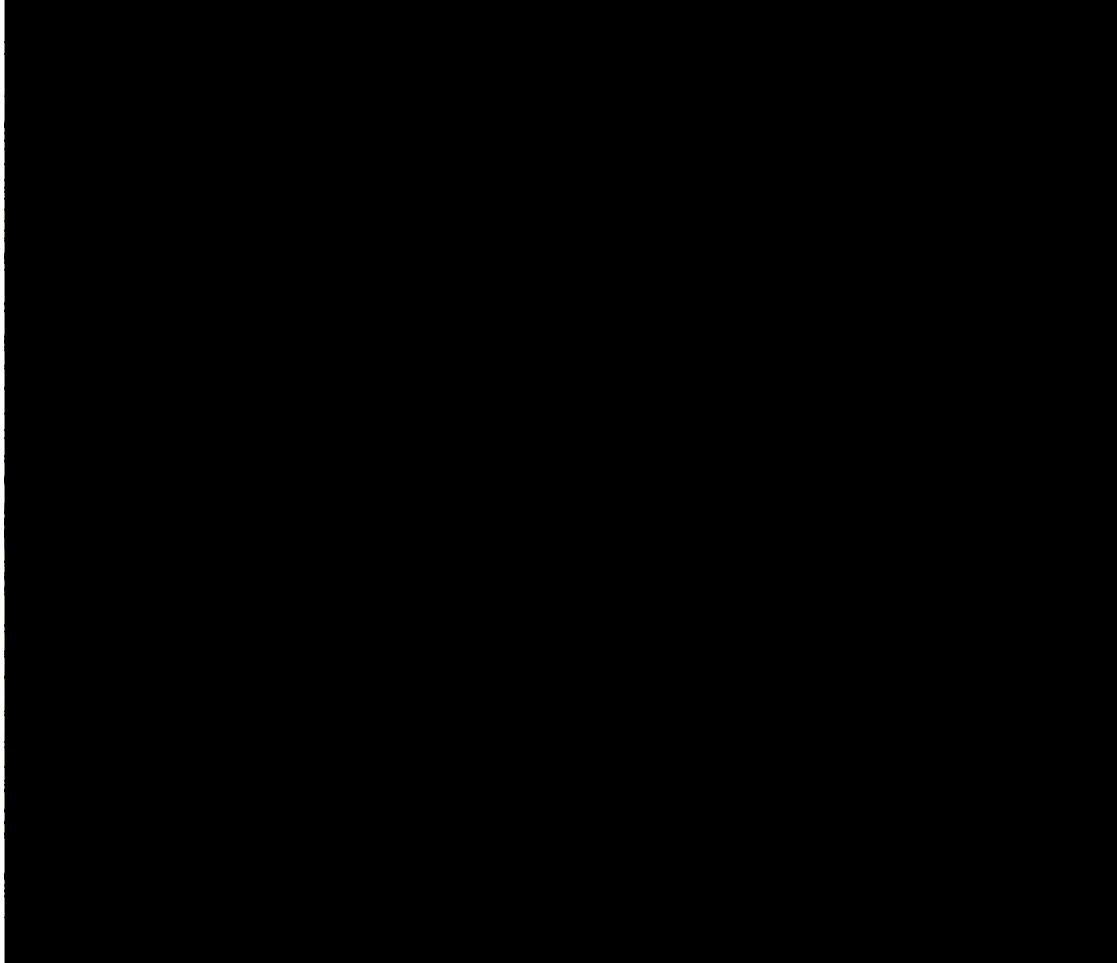
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Shrewsbury, approximating the area covered by the survey.